

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 BIB-01 /075 W

----- 129140

R 061240Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4225

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSYN LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL LOUDENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA A

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0854

E.O. /52: GUS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, SG, GB, SF

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON VORSTER CONTACTS WITH AFRICAN
LEADERS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0832

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1. IN COURSE OF MY DIFCUSSIONS WITH PM VORSTER AND FORMIN

MULLER ON DECEMBER 3 ON MATTER REPORTED SEPARATELY, VORSTER EXPRESSED DISMAY AND ANNOYANCE AT PRESS LEAKS CONCERNING HIS AND OTHER SAG OFFICIALS VISITS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS AND CONCERN THAT THIS MIGHT IMPEDE FUTURE CONTACTS.

2. IN ORDER TO DETERMINE HOW APPEARANCE RECENT SPATE OF PRESS REPORTS ON VORSTER CONTACTS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS WAS REGARDED BY VORSTER AND MULLER, I SUGGESTED PRESS REPORTS ON THESE ALLEGED MEETINGS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS COULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE TO THEIR CONTINUATION. VORSTER COMPLETELY AGREED AND SAID HE DID EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PRESERVE THE SECRECY OF SUCH MEETINGS BUT SAID HE HAD TOLD SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AT TIME THAT THEY SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED AT POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE DISCLOSURE SINCE A PERSON COULD BE DISGUISED BUT IT VERY DIFFICULT TO HIDE A "707". NOTE: THIS FINALLY CONFIRMS HIS MEETING WITH THESE TWO AFRICAN LEADERS.

3. VORSTER EMPHATICALLY DENIED SAG OFFICIAL LEAKS SAYING ALL WHO WERE AWARE OF PLANS WERE UNDER STRICTEST ORDERS TO OBSERVE SECRECY. HE OBSERVED HOWEVER THAT PRESS WITH UNLIMITED FUNDS COULD FOR INSTANCE BUY INFORMATION FROM AIRPORT WORKERS.

4. COMMENT: BOTH VORSTER AND MULLER ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT CONTINUING PRESS STORIES SPECULATING ON SAG CONTACT WITH AFRICAN LEADERS WILL DAMAGE THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE CONTRACTS. THEY HOPE TO ASSURE AFRICAN LEADERS OF SAG SIN-

CERITY AND DESIRE FOR SECRECY SO THAT FORWARD MOTION CAN BE MAINTAINED. HURD

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Message Attributes

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